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AFGHANISTAN

Date: December 2010

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FACT SHEET

Human and Institutional Capacity Building for Afghanistan Energy and Capacity Building (AECB)

OVERVIEW

In collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, USAID launched a three-year energy-sector capacity building program in August 2008. The goal of the Afghan Energy Capacity Building (AECB) project is to provide technical, managerial, and administrative capacity building in the Afghan energy sector. The Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (the Afghan Electrical Utility – DABS), the Ministry of Mines, and other entities benefit from the project. The project supports MEW's donor coordination activities and is helping to develop a training organization. The overall approach of the project is to develop meaningful capacity building programs customized to meet the needs of participants while addressing the immediate and longer-term needs of the energy sector.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Assist DABS by supporting operations and maintenance training at substations along the North East Power System (NEPS) with management skills and technical training
- Conduct a two-year program (which began in March 2009) for recent electrical engineering university graduates to build practical skills
- Help MEW to develop the capacity building strategy for the energy sector under the Subcommittee on Capacity Building in the energy sector and ensure donor coordination
- Provide DABS employees in the field with hands-on and on-the-job training in different technical areas, as well as computer literacy and English
- Improve the quality of education at the Vocational Training Center (VTC) by providing refresher courses in English and computers for students, equipment upgrades for instructors, instructor study tours, and leadership/team building for instructors

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contributed new technical skills to enable the NEPS to be energized two years ahead of schedule, which provides energy services to more than four million citizens
- Assisted DABS with negotiations that resulted in building a 68 km, 20 kV distribution line two years ahead of schedule that provides electricity to 240,000 residents of Parwan Province
- Provided more than 700,000 person hours of training for over 4,000 electricity sector employees (465 were women who received more than 64,000 hours of training) in electric utilities, management and team building, English, and computer science
- Expanded residential facilities for 50 additional students and upgraded and expanded laboratory facilities at the VTC
- Renovated the instructor internet search area, diesel generator laboratory, electronics laboratory, dormitory, and several classrooms of the VTC
- Commenced the lead support effort to coordinate all donor capacity building in the energy sector, with leadership for this effort from MEW, to prevent duplication and redundancy
- Impacted Kabul Polytechnic University Electrical Engineering students by providing field training/exposure to all phases of an electrical utility, including training in India at the National Power Training Institute